



Junior Church

LESSON PLANS: 12-04-20

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Opposites game

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to think about opposites

1. Invite the children to go to one end of the room and explain that you are going to play 'opposites'.
2. When you say a word, whoever first says the correct opposite takes a step forward. The first person to reach you wins. If you are short of space, give a straw to the first person who correctly answers.
3. Call out some words, for example, big, happy, up, cold, outside, until someone gets very close. Finish with the word 'dead'.
4. Challenge the children to spot the opposites in today's story.



Dolphins

(Age 3, F1 & F2)

Bubbles Sheets

Activity time: no time limit

Aim: to understand how God turned a sad day into a good day

You will need: Bubbles Sheet 52a (attached), scissors

1. Give out Bubbles Sheet and help the children to cut out the figure of Jesus and the large stone.
2. Point out the cross on the hill and the tomb in the rock. Explain that Jesus died on the cross. His body was put in the tomb and a large stone was rolled over the entrance.
3. Tell the story again simply or read it once more, encouraging the children to put Jesus in the right place as the story progresses. They can place the stone over the entrance to the tomb and then roll it away to reveal that Jesus is alive again.
4. Say that it was a very sad day when Jesus died. But God turned the sad day into a very happy day by bringing Jesus back to life again.
5. Allow the children to play freely with the picture and the figure of Jesus.

Bubbles 52a

Where
is Jesus?

Today's aim is to see that God turned a sad day into a good day.

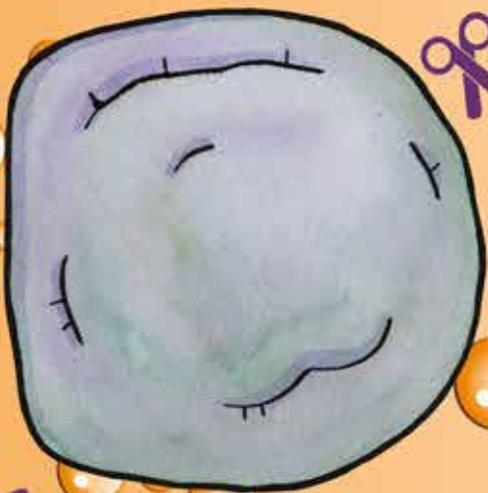
Matthew 27:14 – 28:20;
Mark 15:6 – 16:18;
Luke 23:13 – 24:49; John 18:39 – 20:23

Help your child to cut out the small pictures and add them to the scene, as you tell the story.

This is a difficult story for our children, but the most important one in the Bible! It is the story of what Jesus did to make it possible for us to be forgiven and enjoy a relationship with God.

However, we cannot expect our children to understand these difficult concepts fully. Our aim in introducing this vital story is to help them grasp the importance and wonder of the events in Jesus' life.

The Bible story can be found on **Bonus Sheet M**.



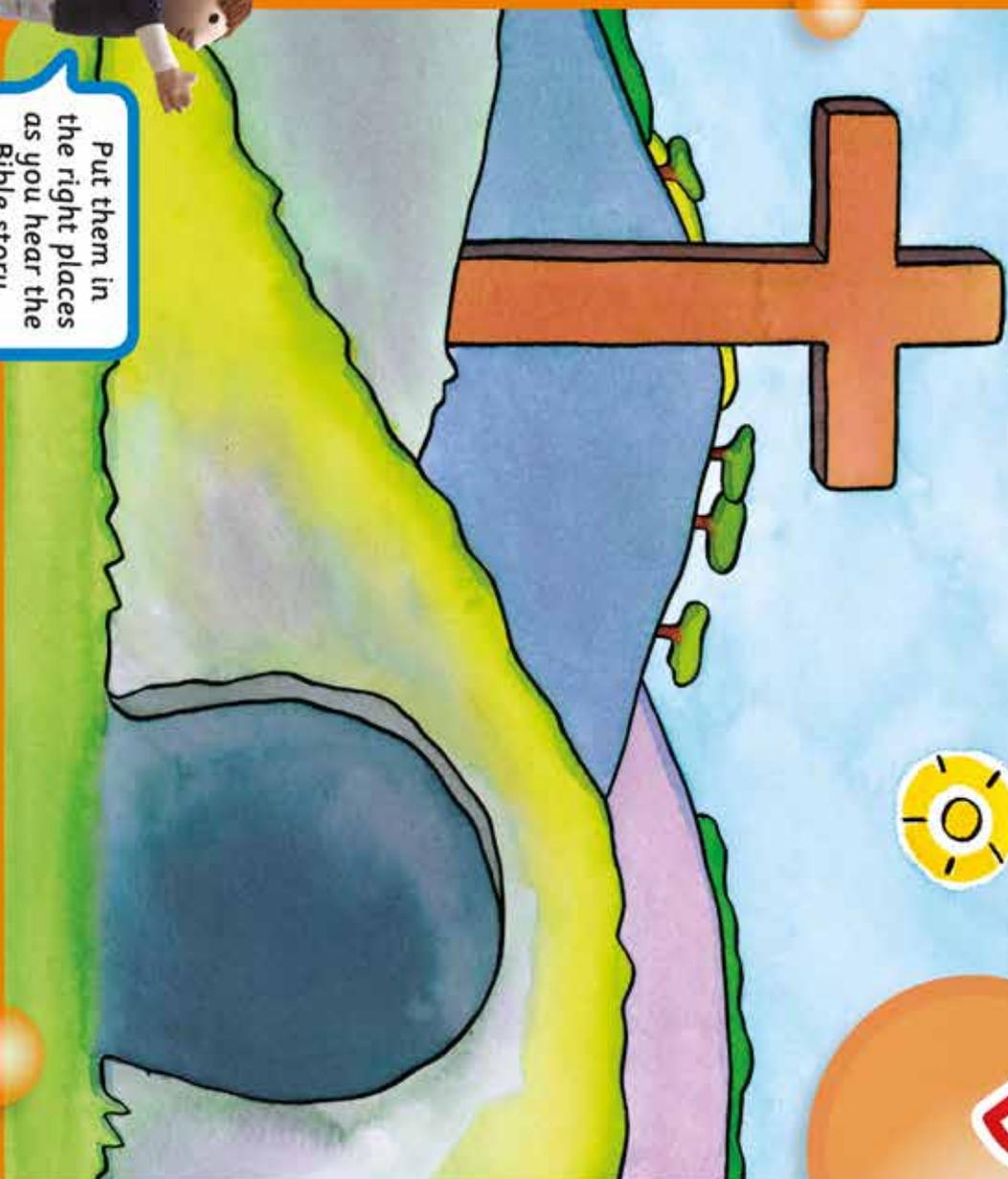
Cut out the
big stone and
Jesus.



Photocopiable resource



Put them in
the right places
as you hear the
Bible story.





Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

Bible story with Splash!

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to rejoice that Jesus is the victor

You will need: copies of the Splash! sheets from pages 367 and 368

1. Prepare

Make copies of pages 367 and 368 so that they are back to back on one sheet of paper; you will need one copy per child.

2. Make a Splash! booklet

Show the children how to cut and fold their Splash! sheet to make a booklet. Make sure they have the pages the correct way up; then secure them with a piece of sticky tape.

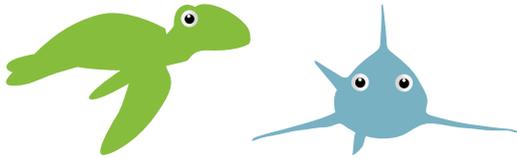
3. The sad story

Remind the children that, at the end of the last session, Jesus was sentenced to die. Explain that Jesus was sent to the Roman governor, called Pilate, who asked the crowd whether Jesus should be set free or not. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask Pilate to crucify Jesus. So this is what happened.

Invite the children to look at page 1 of their books. Ask what is happening in the picture: Were the soldiers being fair and kind in their treatment of Jesus? Ask the children how that makes them feel: Was it a sad or happy time?

Invite a child to read the Bible verses highlighted, or read them to the children. Invite them to respond by putting a happy or sad face in the circle. Repeat with pages 2–4, each time discussing the pictures and then reading the verses indicated, before adding a sad or happy face. If time is short, summarise the story rather than reading the verses.

When you have looked at page 4, invite the children to look at the bottom of the page on their Splash! sheets and read what it says: 'This was the end; the wicked people had won. Or had they...?' Encourage the children to turn over the page and then turn the booklet upside down to find out.



Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

4. The happy story

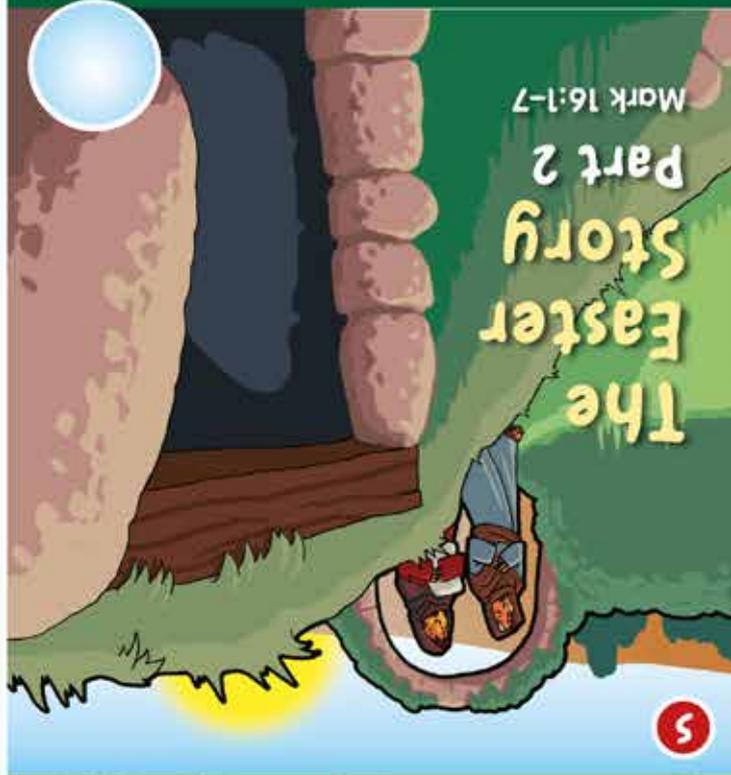
Encourage the children to look at page 5 and invite a child to read the title. Then talk about the pictures on pages 5–8 and fill in the appropriate faces. When you have looked at page 8, read together in loud voices, 'Jesus was the victor! Hurray!'

Point out that Jesus was the victor over all the bad things which had been done to him. Even death could not win! Ask the children how that makes them feel.

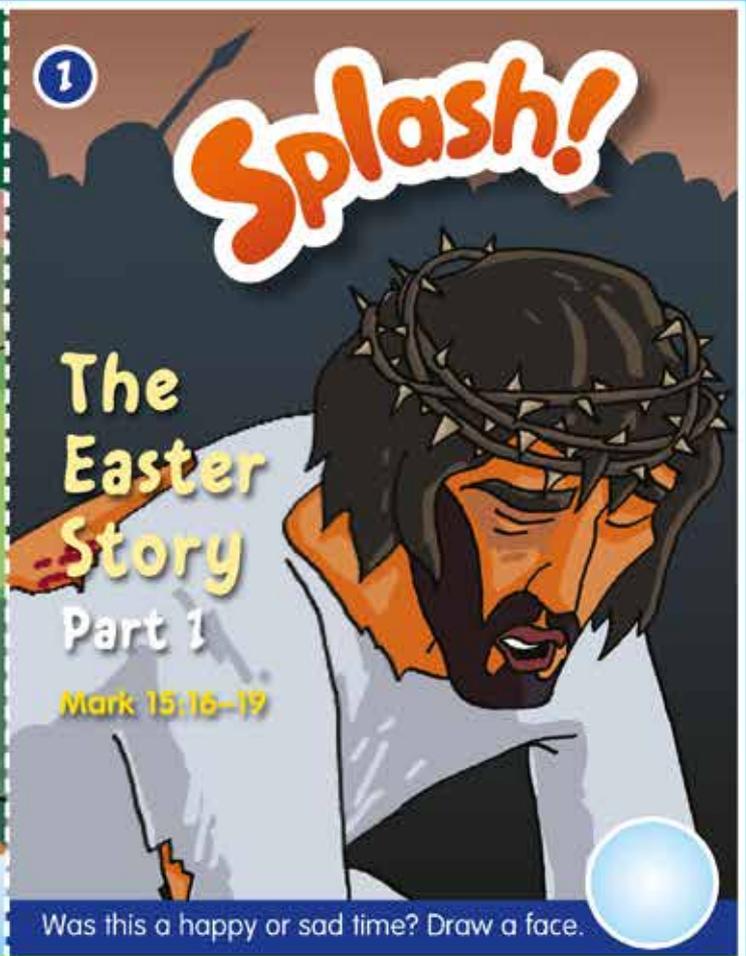
5. Celebration!

Discuss how winners celebrate their victories, for example, they run round the racetrack, hug each other, punch the air, spray champagne, scream, and so on... Invite the children to choose one of these ways of celebration and mime it themselves to celebrate Jesus' victory.

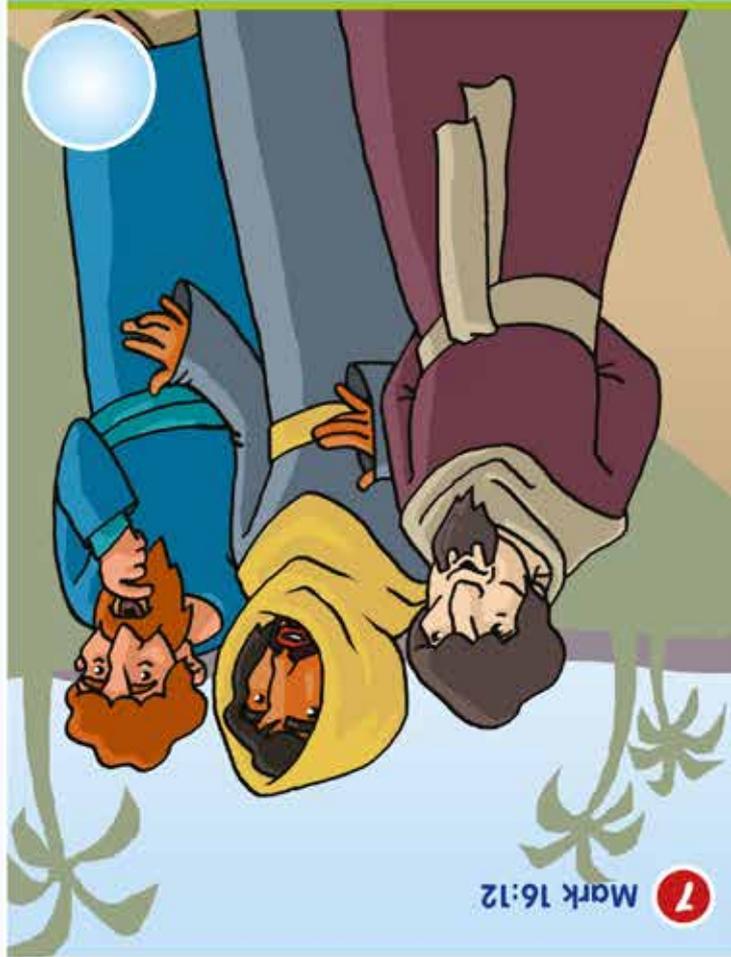
Cut along the green line. Fold back along the dotted line. Put this half on top of the lower half to make a booklet. Look at pages 1-4. Turn upside down to read pages 5-8.



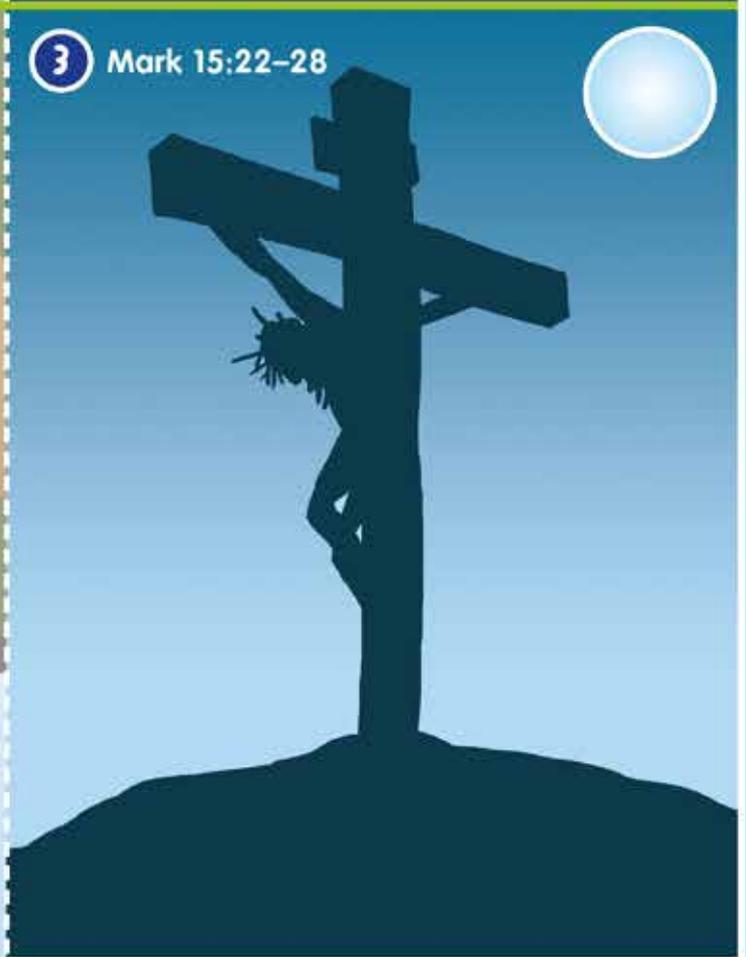
5



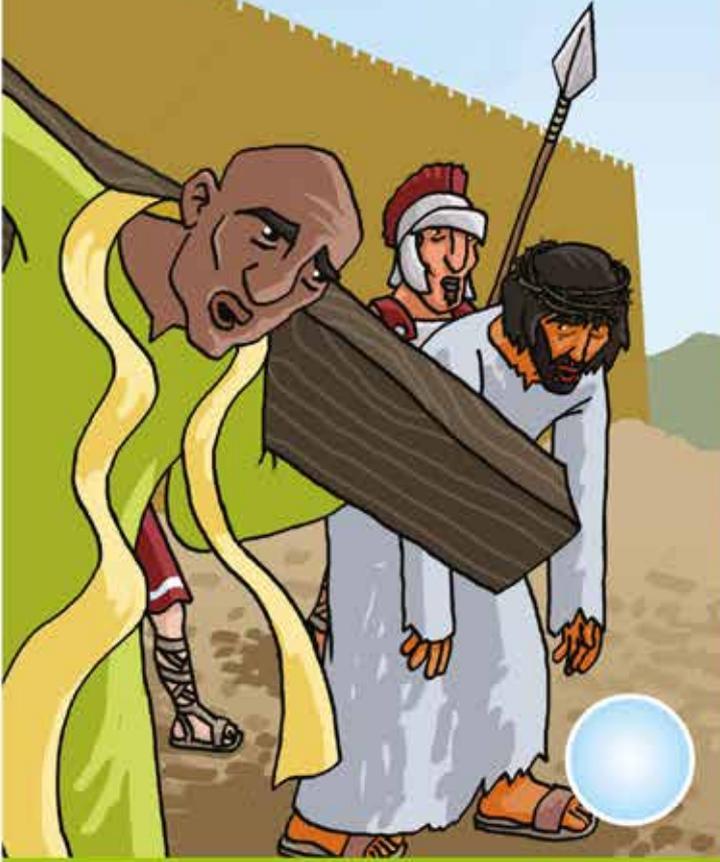
Was this a happy or sad time? Draw a face.



7

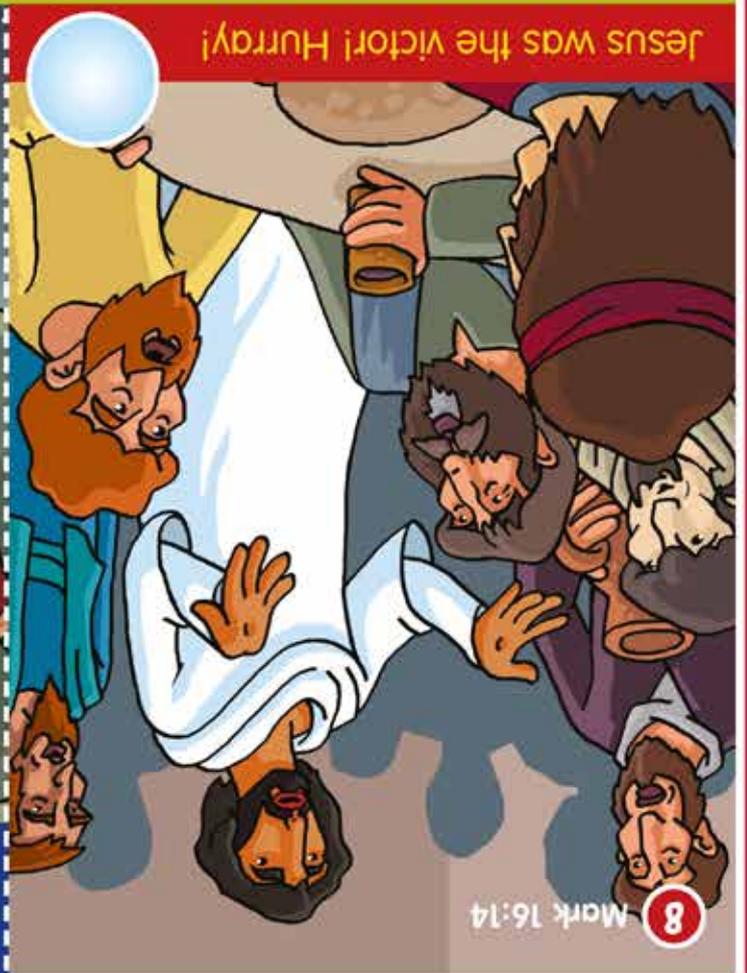
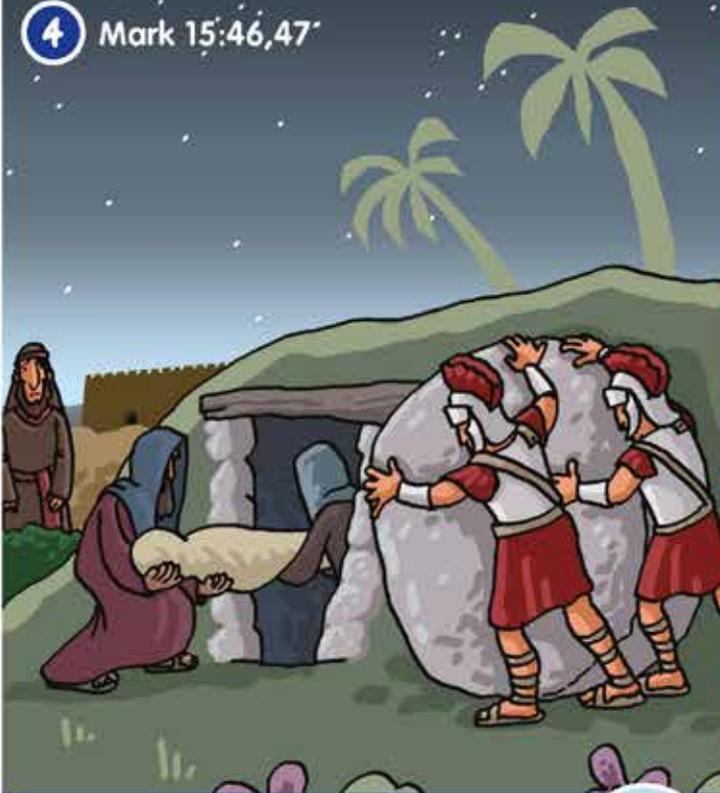


2 Mark 15:20,21



9 Mark 16:9

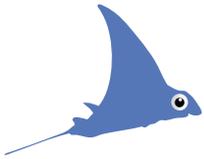
4 Mark 15:46,47



Jesus was the victor! Hurray!

8 Mark 16:14

This was the end. The wicked people had won. Or had they? Turn over the page, turn it upside down to find out.



Bible story through art

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to rejoice that Jesus is the victor

You will need: diagrams from page 371, A4 sheets of black paper, white and yellow paint/chalk

1. Think

Invite the children to think about the passing of time in the big story of the Bible, particularly significant gaps, like the 700 years between the prophecy in Isaiah and Jesus' birth.

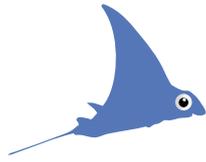
Talk about how it feels when you are waiting for something important like a phone call and you miss it. Encourage the children to think about how sad it was that the Jewish leaders had prayed for so long for the coming of the Messiah and hadn't realised that Jesus was the answer to their prayers.

2. Tell the story

Encourage the children to recap very briefly the story of Jesus' trial, and explain that today they are going to see the outcome of that unfair trial. Invite the children to sit in a semicircle so that they can all see what you are doing.

Using the notes below and the diagrams from page 371, tell the story using the black paper and the paint or chalk as your visual aids. The idea is to use the black paper to build up a picture of darkness as Jesus is sentenced to death, culminating in the shape of the cross, and then to transform this into a picture of light with the paint, as you tell of Jesus' resurrection. You will need to read the Bible passages thoroughly beforehand, so that you can relate the details while creating the picture.

- Place a single sheet of black paper (portrait) in the centre of the semicircle and explain how Pilate was too scared to let Jesus go free, but left the decision to the crowd.
- Add a sheet of black paper either side of your central piece to create a row of three, and talk about how the crowd screamed for Barabbas to be freed and for Jesus to be crucified.
- Lay two more sheets of black paper, one above and one below the central piece, to create a stubby cross shape, and describe how Pilate's soldiers beat and mocked Jesus.



Stingrays

(Year 5 & 6)

- Add a sheet at the bottom of the cross and talk about Jesus' journey through Jerusalem with the cross on his back.
- Add a sheet at each end of the row of three, to extend the cross arms, before describing the crucifixion and Jesus' death.
- Take the paint and, in three stages, transform this picture of darkness into a picture of light. As you talk about Joseph of Arimathea, and what he did for Jesus, paint (or chalk) a circle in yellow at the bottom of the cross (nearest the children).
- Then, as you describe the visit of the women to the empty tomb, start to paint up from the circle, using the yellow and white to fill about three-quarters of the cross.
- Finally, remind the children that Jesus was seen by the disciples several times before he went back to heaven, and he is still alive today. Fill the rest of the cross with white paint.

3. Think and paint

Invite the children to reflect on what they have learned about Jesus today, and express that with the paint. Give them black paper and paint or chalk. Explain that they don't necessarily have to paint a picture, but just to use the colours and the motion to pray, telling God how they feel about Jesus' death and resurrection and that he is still alive today. Play some quiet reflective music as they do this. If appropriate, you could invite them to tell others about their picture afterwards.

Diagrams for 'Bible story through art'

